

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of optical character recognition (OCR)
~~of a character image of at least one character object in a digitized representation of an~~
~~image;~~ the method comprising the steps of:
 - ~~receiving the digitized representation of the character image represented at~~
~~image, the representation having a first resolution;~~
 - ~~creating a reduced-resolution version of the character image from the~~
~~digitized representation of the image received in said receiving step, the reduced-resolution~~
~~version of the character image having being represented at a second resolution lower than~~
~~the first resolution;~~
 - ~~identifying at least one an optimal~~ OCR parameter for OCR processing of
the received ~~digitized representation of the character image represented~~ at the first
resolution, ~~based on~~ by executing OCR processing for the reduced resolution version of the
character image represented at the second resolution; and
 - ~~OCR processing the digitized representation of the character image~~
~~represented~~ at the first resolution, ~~based at least on the identified OCR parameter, so as to~~
~~character-recognize the at least one character object with the optimal OCR parameter~~
identified in said identifying step so as to acquire a character code corresponding to the
character image.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said identifying step comprises the steps of:

providing a plurality of sets of at least one parameter;

identifying each confidence level of character-recognition by performing
executing OCR processing of the reduced-resolution version of the character image ~~so as to~~
~~attempt to character-recognize the at least one character object based on~~ with each set of
the at least one parameter; and

selecting the ~~at least one~~ optimal OCR parameter based on the confidence
levels identified.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 2, wherein said
selecting step comprises selecting the ~~at least one~~ optimal OCR parameter corresponding to
a highest confidence level from a plurality of the confidence levels identified.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 2, wherein said
selecting step comprises selecting the ~~at least one~~ optimal OCR parameter corresponding to
a confidence level exceeding a threshold.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said
creating step creates the reduced-resolution version of the character image by calculating
an average of at least one value of a plurality of pixels of the ~~digitized representation of the~~
image character image represented at the first resolution.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

judging whether a confidence level of character recognition by said OCR processing step is acceptable; and

repeating said identifying step and said OCR processing step if the confidence level is not acceptable.

8. (Currently Amended) Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for optical character recognition (OCR) ~~of at least one character object in a digitized representation of an image~~ for a character image, the computer program product comprising computer readable program code configured to:

~~receive the digitized representation of the~~ character image represented at ~~image, the representation having a first resolution;~~

~~create a reduced-resolution version of the~~ character image from the digitized representation of the image received in said receiving step, the reduced-resolution version of the character image having being represented at a second resolution lower than the first resolution;

~~identify at least one~~ an optimal OCR parameter for OCR processing of the ~~received digitized representation of the~~ character image represented at the first resolution,

~~based on by executing OCR processing for the reduced resolution version of the character image represented~~ at the second resolution; and

OCR processing the ~~digitized representation of the character image represented~~ at the first resolution, ~~based at least on the identified OCR parameter, so as to character-recognize the at least one character object with the optimal OCR parameter identified in said identifying step so as to acquire a character code corresponding to the character image.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 8, wherein said computer readable program code configured to identify ~~at least one an optimal~~ OCR parameter is further configured to:

provide a plurality of sets of values of at least one parameter;

identify each confidence level of character-recognition by performing ~~executing~~ OCR processing of the reduced-resolution version of the ~~character image so as to attempt to character-recognize the at least one character object based on~~ with each set of the at least one parameter; and

select the ~~at least one optimal~~ OCR parameter based on the confidence levels identified.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 9, wherein said computer readable program code configured to select is further

configured to select the ~~at least one~~ optimal OCR parameter corresponding to a highest confidence level from a plurality of the confidence levels identified.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 9, wherein said computer readable program code configured to select is further configured to select the ~~at least one~~ optimal OCR parameter corresponding to a confidence level exceeding a threshold.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 8, wherein said computer readable program code configured to create is further configured to create the reduced-resolution version of the character image by calculating an average of at least one value of a plurality of pixels of the ~~digitized representation of the~~ image character image represented at the first resolution.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 8, further comprising computer readable program code configured to:
judge whether a confidence level of character recognition is acceptable; and
repeat said identifying step and said OCR processing step if the confidence level is not acceptable.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~recognizing objects~~ optical character recognition (OCR) for a character image, the system comprising:

a downsampler having an input for receiving the character image represented at a digitized representation of an image having a first resolution and containing a character object, the downsampler for producing and providing at an output thereof a reduced-resolution version of the character image responsive to the first resolution representation of the character image received at the downsampler input, the reduced resolution version of the character image ~~having being represented at~~ a second resolution lower than the first resolution; and

a character-recognition engine for optical character recognition (OCR) processing of an image, said character-recognition engine having a first input coupled to the downsampler output for receiving the reduced-resolution version of the character image and a second input for receiving the ~~representation of the~~ character image represented at the first resolution, the character-recognition engine being constructed to:

identify ~~at least one~~ an optimal OCR parameter for OCR processing of the received ~~digitized representation of the~~ character image represented at the first resolution, ~~based on by executing OCR processing for~~ the reduced resolution version of the character image represented at the second resolution received at the first input;

OCR process the ~~digitized representation of the~~ character image received at the second input with the optimal OCR parameter identified in said identifying step so as to acquire a character code corresponding to the character image, based at least on the identified OCR parameter so as to character-recognize the character object; and

provide a representation of the character object character-recognized the acquired character code at a first output coupled to a system output.

16. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 15, wherein the character-recognition engine identifies the ~~at least one~~ optimal OCR parameter by an ~~attempt to character-recognize at least one first object in the~~ by executing OCR processing of the reduced resolution version of the character image ~~at least one time for~~ with each set in a plurality of sets of parameters.

17. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 16,
wherein the character-recognition engine performs character-recognition responsive to each set in the plurality of sets of parameters and an additional set of parameters; and wherein the character-recognition engine additionally provides a corresponding recognition confidence level for each of the ~~at least one times~~ sets; and
wherein the system further comprises a parameter identifier having a first input for receiving the recognition confidence level for each of the ~~at least one times~~ sets, and a second input for receiving each set in the plurality of sets of parameters, the parameter identifier for selecting and providing at an output ~~the additional thereof~~ each set of parameters responsive to the sets of parameters received at the parameter identifier second input and its corresponding the recognition confidence level for ~~each of the at least one times received at the parameter identifier first input~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 17, wherein the parameter identifier selects an the additional set of parameters additionally responsive to a threshold confidence level.

19. and 20. (Cancelled)